WARSAW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PROCEDURE FOR PEDICULOSIS CAPITIS (HEAD LICE)

Purpose: To define the steps that will be taken by the Warsaw Community Schools’ staff in the event of a suspected case of head lice.

Rationale: The goal of Warsaw Community Schools’ Health Services is to keep students in the classroom as long as medically safe. As head lice are not a risk for carrying communicable disease; are primarily spread through direct head to head contact, and only live 18-24 hours off a host, the subsequent steps will be followed:

1. Students suspicious of having head lice will be sent to the health clinic for evaluation by the nurse or designee.
2. A thorough inspection for live lice and nits will be completed. See attached photos for reference.
3. If live (crawling) lice are noted, the school nurse may use manual methods of lice removal at his/her discretion. The parent/guardian will be notified at the end of the day by sending home the lice letter with the student.
4. The parent/guardian will be provided with information on the biology of head lice.
5. The parent/guardian will be instructed to inspect other household members for live lice.
6. The parent/guardian will be instructed in methods for elimination of infestation focusing on inspection for LIVE (crawling) LICE and manual removal (combing.)
7. The parent/guardian will be instructed to continue daily combing until no live lice are discovered (approximately 1 ½ weeks). FOCUS IS ON THE REMOVAL OF LIVE LICE.
8. The parent/guardian will be instructed to change/launder pillow cases, pajamas and towels.
9. The parent/guardian will be instructed in use of pediculicides if they choose to use as adjunct to manual removal.
10. The student will periodically be reinspected for live lice by the school nurse or designee.
11. Students will not be excluded from school due to head lice infestations.

References:
Harvard School of Public Health:  http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html#children
CDC Division of Parasitic Disease:  http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice/
The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools: http://www.healthinschools.org/headlice.asp
Lice Advisory Bureau:  http://www.headliceadvice.net/teachers/approaching.html
Indiana State Department of Health:  http://www.in.gov/isdh/publications/2002communicable_disease_ref_guide/pediculosis.htm
Images to assist in the identification of head lice and their eggs.

http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html

- Adult female louse on nit comb
- Viable egg on hair ~2 days old
- Viable egg ~1 day before hatching
- Empty egg (hatched)
- Dead egg (>2 weeks old)
- "Pseudo-nit" (Debris often confused as eggs)

Return to text
Scheme for managing presumed head louse infestations

'Nits' discovered on hair?
- No: Do nothing
- Yes: Inspect hair for live lice. Compare samples to photos on this web site. Also, inspect all other people in the house for live lice.

Live (crawling) lice on hair?
- No: Periodically reinspect hair for live lice.
- Yes: Is hair readily combed with louse comb?
  - No: TREATMENT
  - Yes: Consult physician. Consider prescription pediculicides (malathion or lindane). Obtain, read, understand and follow label directions. DO NOT OVERTREAT. Removal of remaining nits is a personal choice, as these are likely to be dead or hatched. Change or launder pillow cases, pajamas, towels.

Had this person been treated with permethrin or pyrethrins within the past few months?
- No: Apply an over-the-counter pediculicide that contains permethrin or pyrethrins. Treat according to label directions. Change or launder pillow cases, pajamas, towels. If live lice persist, a second application may be needed ~10 days after the 1st treatment. Consult physician for advice.
- Yes or or:

Live lice persist after two treatments?
- No: Periodically reinspect hair for live lice.
- Yes: Consult physician. Consider prescription pediculicides (malathion or lindane). Obtain, read, understand and follow label directions. DO NOT OVERTREAT. Removal of remaining nits is a personal choice, as these are likely to be dead or hatched. Change or launder pillow cases, pajamas, towels.
Scheme for managing presumed head louse infestations in schools

Do nothing

Inspect hair for live lice. Compare samples to photos on this web site.

Periodically reinspect hair for live lice.

Notify parent/guardian at the end of the day of the suspected infestation. Provide information on the biology of head lice and methods to eliminate infestations.